



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREG BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Water Rights

KENT L. JONES
State Engineer/Division Director

Duchesne/Strawberry Rivers Distribution System

Distribution Engineer's Report

March 8, 2010

I have had the pleasure of working with John Swasey this past year; he has been effective as your Water Commissioner. John recently attended the training session provided by the Division the first week of January. I might add that Clinton Moon and Lee Moon both attended this training also. I met with John during the 2009 on three occasions, he spent the time with me to help understand the system and there is a lot to learn. Over the last year, efforts have focused on measuring locations that will enhance the operations and move towards real time water allocation using a river-modeling program. There is some improvement needed on some measurement locations to make them more accurate and efficient for routine readings.

Starvation Inflow:

This coming season I will be working with the water commissioner to establish a reliable measurement on the Strawberry water inflow to Starvation Reservoir. There may be a need to have the CUP install a measurement or control structure whereby reliable and accurate measurements can be taken. This is under study now.

Evaporation Rate Variances:

There seems to be wide variances in year-to-year evaporation rates for the reservoirs, these rates are widely variant. Please take a moment to review the data on the presented on the last page. Comparison of total annual evaporation amounts should be within an expected range and far more consistent on a year-to-year basis. Using evaporation rates that cannot be accounted for to cover allocations of water is not appropriate. The only way to resolve discrepancies in evaporation and seepage rates is to account for them using credible flow measurements. This requires that inflows-outflows and reservoir elevation changes be used to account and adjust the daily evaporation-seepage rates. However these flow measurements need to be established and will be required.

Assessments:

The fact that the rest of the assessments have been paid, speaks highly of the diligence of your water user neighbors who are always responsible in staying current. It's always a pleasure to sit in the company of like minded folks that see the value in supporting your water commissioner's efforts. His job is to insure that everyone receives water, in accordance with their rights and in proportion to what is available, and that water is measured and accounted for. The amount spent on your water commissioner's salary is well the important work he does each year, and I believe each water user receives a high return for their proportion of the annual assessment.

Slowly, I am becoming familiar with the system operations from a Distribution Engineering standpoint. John is very familiar with the system and work hard at obtaining measurements, resolving issues and improving the operations where needed. If you have any specific input about John's performance, either good or bad, I welcome your comments both verbally and preferably, in writing. I appreciate working with the water users, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at (801) 538-7430 or by email at MikeSilva@Utah.gov

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Silva

Distribution Engineer

